



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY ARMOR CENTER  
50 3RD AVENUE, SUITE 229  
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5230

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

ATZK-JA

6 May 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters  
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

SUBJECT: Thunderbolt Policy Memo No. 43-6 – Withholding of Authority to Dispose of  
Allegations of Trainee Abuse

1. References.

- a. Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), 10 USC Section 801, et seq.
- b. Army Regulation 27-10, Military Justice, 16 November 2005.
- c. TRADOC Regulation 350-6, Enlisted Initial Entry Training (IET) Policies and Administration, 8 May 2007.
- d. Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, 2008 Edition.

2. I hereby withhold authority to dispose of all allegations of trainee abuse, which are allegedly committed by service members.

3. If a service member allegedly commits an act of trainee abuse in violation of one or more punitive articles of the UCMJ, the brigade-level commander will forward an initial report of the incident to me and the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after occurrence of the incident. This initial report will not be delayed to gather additional facts and can be made telephonically or electronically. Upon completion of the investigation into the alleged misconduct, the brigade-level commander will provide independent chain of command recommendations for disposition of the case to the SJA for my review.

DAVID A. TEEPLES  
COL, AR  
Commanding

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